

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-09 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 DOTE-00 EB-07 FAA-00 IO-10 SCCT-01 SY-04

USSS-00 /088 W

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R 151826Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7289

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LONDON 00658

STATE AND BRUSSELS PASS FAA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, PINS, PFOR, UK

SUBJ: CIVAIR - AIRPORT SECURITY

REF: LONDON 0238

1. IN THE WAKE OF LAST WEEK'S HIJACKING OF BRITISH AIRWAYS ONE-ELEVEN AT HEATHROW, MR. PETER SHORE, SECRETARY FOR TRADE MADE A STATEMENT IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS ON SECURITY AT AIRPORTS. HE SAID THAT RESPONSIBILITY FOR SECURITY AT A LARGE NUMBER OF AIRPORTS IN THE UK MAY BE TAKEN OVER BY LOCAL POLICE AUTHORITIES INSTEAD OF BEING HANDLED BY THE INDIVIDUAL AIRPORT OWNERS. HE POINTED OUT THAT THE SUCCESSFUL CONDUCT OF THE ANTI-HIJACK OPERATION LAST WEEK BY THE METROPOLITAN POLLCE SHOWED THE VALUE OF PUTTING THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR SECURITY INTO THE HANDS OF THAT BODY UNDER THE RECENT POLICING OF AIRPORTS ACT, 1974. RESPONSIBILITY FOR SECURITY AT GATWICK, STANSTED, GLASGOW EDINBURGH, AND PRESTWICK (OWNED BY THE BRITISH AIRPORTS AUTHORITY) IS IN PROCESS OF BEING PASSED TO THE RELEVANT POLICE AUTHORITIES. MR. SHORE SAID "AND I HAVE NOW CALLED
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FOR AN EXAMINATION OF THE POSSIBILITY OF DESIGNATING FURTHER AIRPORTS".

2. REGARDING A RELATED INCIDENT, THE HIJACKING OF THE VC-10 AT DUBAI IN NOVEMBER 1974, HE SAID THAT WHILE THE FINAL REPORT WAS NOT FINISHED, "WE HAVE ALREADY INITIATED USEFUL CONSULTATIONS WITH FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS ABOUT PROTECTIVE MEASURES ACCORDED TO AIRCRAFT OF BRITISH AIRLINES ON THE GROUND".

3. COMMENT: THE UKG IS MOVING TOWARDS THE US SYSTEM OF 100 PERCENT SCREENING OF ALL SCHEDULED FLIGHTS, BUT ARE HAVING SOME PROBLEMS WITH LACK OF EQUIPMENT AND TRAINED PERSONNEL. EMBASSY OFFICERS ARE TO MEET WITH UKG DEPT. OF TRADE SECURITY PERSONNEL TO ELICIT MORE DETAILS ON BOTH THE DUBAI AND HEATHROW INCIDENTS IN ORDER TO DETERMINE ANY LESSONS LEARNED.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CIVIL AVIATION, AIRCRAFT HIJACKING, ANTIHIJACKING PROCEDURES, AIRPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975LONDON00658
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750016-0294
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750150/aaaabsei.tel
Line Count: 78
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 LONDON 0238
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 APR 2003 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <14 APR 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CIVAIR - AIRPORT SECURITY
TAGS: EAIR, PINS, PFOR, UK, BRITISH AIRWAYS, HEATHROW
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006